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King James

HIS

CHARGE

TO THE

JUDGES

Before they went their

CIRCUITS.

Relating to Prieſts, Roman-Catholicks, &c,

Taken out of the Library at St. James's.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

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HIS
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I Proteſt unto you, nothing in the earth can grieve me ſo much as mens falling away from Religion in my days, and nothing ſo much joys me as when Religion increaſeth under Me; God is my Witneſs, I ſpeak nothing for vain glory, My heart is grieved when I hear Recuſants

increaſe, Therefore I wiſh ye Judges to take it to heart as I do, and prevent it as you can, and make me known to my people as I am.

There are three ſorts of Recuſants, the firſt are they that for themſelves will be no Recuſants, but their Wives and their Families are, and they themſelves do come to Church but once or twice in a year inforc'd by Law, or for faſhion ſake; theſe may be formal to the Law, but more falſe to God than the other ſort.

The ſecond ſort are they that are Recuſants, and have their conſcience miſled, and therefore refuſe to come to Church, but otherwiſe live as peaceable Subjects.

The third ſort are practiſing Recuſants, theſe force all their Servants to be Recuſants with them, they will ſuffer none of their Tenants, but they muſt be Recuſants, and their Neighbours, (if they will live by

by them in peace) muſt be Recuſants alſo. Theſe you may find out as a Fox, by the foul ſmell a great way round his hole.

This is high pride and preſumption, that they for whoſe ſouls I muſt anſwer to God, and who enjoy their Lives and Liberty under me, will not only be Recuſants themſelves, but infect and draw others after them.

As I have ſaid in the Parliament Houſe. I can love the Perſon of a Papiſt, being otherwiſe a good man, and honeſtly bred, never having known any other Religion: But the Perſon of an Apoſtate Papiſt I hate; and ſurely for thoſe Polypragmatick Papiſts, I would you would ſtudy out ſome ſevere puniſhment for them, for they keep not infection in their own hearts only, but alſo infect others Our good Subjects.

And that which I ſay for Recuſants, the ſame I ſay for Prieſts. I confeſs I am loth to hang a Prieſt only for Religion ſake, and ſaying Maſs; but if he refuſe the Oath of Allegiance, which (let the People and all the Devils in Hell ſay what they will) yet, as ye find by my Book, and divers others, is meerly civil; but, thoſe that ſo refuſe the Oath, and are Polypragmatick Recuſants, I leave them to the Law. It's no Perſecution but good Juſtice.

And thoſe Prieſts alſo, that out of my Grace and Mercy have been let go out of Priſons, and baniſh'd upon condition not to Return, ask me no queſtions touching thoſe, quit me of them, and let me not hear of them; and to them I joyn thoſe that break Priſons, for ſuch Prieſts as the Priſon will not hold, it's a plain ſign nothing will hold them but a Halter; ſuch are no Martyrs that refuſe to dye for their Conſcience, *Paul*, notwithſtanding

ſtanding the doors were open, would not come forth, and *Peter* came not forth of the Priſon, till led by the Angel of God, but theſe will go forth though with the Angel of the Devil.

FINIS.